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ABSTRACT

This paper presents slide narration to accompany eight separate units on India to be used in World History classes or other areas across the curriculum. Units include: (1) "Religion: India's Diverse Temples and Sacred Places"; (2) "Styles of Dress: Shimla to Kerala"; (3) "Traditional Dance in India"; (4) "South India: Kerala & Tamil Nadu"; (5) "The Taj Mahal and Agra Fort"; (6) "Rajasthan"; (7) "Urban India: Bombay, Calcutta, and New Delhi"; and (8) "Village Life & School Visits." The narration is done in conjunction with slides developed by the participant in the Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminars Abroad program in India. (EH)

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ED 421 437

# [Indian Within World History]

## Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminars Abroad, 1997 (India)

by

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India Curriculum Project

Developed by 1997 Participant Ann E. Bragdon

Submitted to

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Fulbright- Hays Seminar Curriculum Project

Ann E. Bragdon

What is here: Slide narration to accompany eight separate units on India to be used by me as part of our study of India within World History class, or individually by other faculty members who may only be interested in the aspects that cross relate to their curriculum. For instance, a dramatics teacher may be interested in units B & C, an architecture class may want to use unit E, a World Religion class may want only unit A. The eight units are listed on page 1 along with the number of slides in that particular unit of study.

Objective: To create eight separate units of study within the larger topic of "India" within my World History class. I chose slides that will enrich that particular unit. Lesson plans are also being developed to go along with each area of study.

For example, I have samples of different fabrics and clothing to accompany unit C) Traditional Dress. I also have crafts and other objects from the geographical areas of India we visited. I have maps that will be utilized, creative writing assignments, and have put together large laminated posters from materials collected in India that visually shows students more about each of the eight units. These will be placed on our walls while we are working on each unit of study.

The longest unit, A) Religion, will take a few weeks of study, the others are designed to be units of several days. Each unit will begin with the slide presentation. The slides are not designed to be shown all at once, but rather each functioning as an introduction to that particular area we will concentrate on.

I have narrated the slides and combined this with factual information derived from research. Excerpts from my own journal and from other writers on India are included. I have provided historical background on places and buildings. My intent is to expose my students to the rich culture and traditions of India, to help them to develop a sense of the place by seeing how things fit together, intertwine.

A) Religion: India's diverse temples and Sacred places (40 slides + 20 of only Hindu Gods, 60 total )

B) Styles of dress: Shimla to Kerala ( 9 slides)

C) Traditional Dance in India ( 8 slides)

D) South India: Kerala & Tamil Nadu (13 slides)

E) The Taj Mahal & Agra Fort (11 slides)

F) Rajasthan ( 35 slides)

G) Urban India: Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi ( 30 slides)

H) Village life & School visits ( 23 slides)

# A) Religion: India's diverse temples and Sacred places

40 slides + 20 of Hindu Gods

Sarnath, north of Varanasi, Sarnath is the site of Gautama's first sermon. Some say that after this sermon he taught like Socrates so that his first & last official sermon was here. Buddha was said to have gained enlightenment at BodhGaya and he walked to Sarnath, 200km, lotus bloomed at each spot his feet touched the ground.

Buddhist temple:Mulgandha Kuti Vihar. The wall paintings done by Japanese artist Nosi were inspired by the *Buddhacarita* (Acts of the Buddha) **1) & 2)**

3) Remains of the *Main Shrine* where Buddha meditated, built by Emperor Ashoka, our guide Ashok is also pictured.

**4) 5) & 6)** Small Buddhist temple in nearby village, looking inside one can see the statute of the meditating Buddha
Notice in slide #6, the young women has the traditional henna dyed design on her hand

Varanasi/ Benares/ Kashi The holiest city on earth to Hindus and the place where legend states Lord Shiva came to live with his bride Parvati. Hindu beliefs state that all who die in this holy place are guaranteed moksha.

**#7-10** slides of the Ganges River
**#10 a** wood platforms for sale in front of a shop, used in funeral pyre

"Older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend and looking twice as old as all of them put together' Mark Twain on Varanasi

From my journal" Winding, narrow streets, mere alleys really, muddy from recent rains, cow manure every five or six steps, dodging, careful not to sink my sandaled feet into one of the plentiful piles- humidity increases the scent of all that manure that is duking it out with amongst nicer scents, sandalwood incense, frying cakes, and teas. Small boys chase us relentlessly offering beads, post cards,little toys of wood snakes. The sellers are less in umber than usual however since we are out so early.

Just before dawn we reach the river and set out on the Ganges referred here to as River Gunga see worshippers, bathers, two funeral pyres, many, many men sitting and talking, enjoying a morning bath. It is fairly quiet and still out despite the daily activity starting to commence. Some women collect water, for perhaps their house or maybe to take to a nearby temple to offer it up in worship."

Rivers are often held sacred in the Hindu faith. Sometimes they are given human qualities.

From the book by Gita Mehta *The River Sutra* The Narmada River, the place where the sage Vyasa dictated the Mahabharata, and where Kipling set The Junglebook, is written about:

Did they imagine her as a beautiful woman dancing toward the Arabian Sea, arousing the lust of ascetics like themselves while Shiva laughed at the madness of their infatuation?

Dawn lighted the sky and I was able to see the Narmada leaping headlong through the distant marble rocks, the spraying waterfalls refracting the first rays of sun into arcs of color as if the river were a woman adorning herself with jewels.

Below the terrace the water was still dark, appearing motionless in the shadows like a woman indolently stretching her limbs as she oiled herself with scented oils, her long black hair loosened, her eyes outlined in collyruim.

I watched the river slowly redden, catching reflections from the rose colors of dawn and imagined the river as a woman painting the palms and the soles of her feet with vermilion as she prepared to meet her lover

## Jain Temple Jaipur
**#11-13**

From my journal " I climbed the stairs well before the group. It was a magnificent bright white marble temple. I went inside, quietly, my bare feet slapping against the colder marble that was inside away from the sun. So much of India's architecture is a marvel, so much commitment and love for their faith. Once outside again I found myself the subject of much happy attention from a bubbling group of school boys, about twelve in age as well as in number. They were kidding each other, each trying to get the other to try and talk to me, pushing each other towards where I sat waiting for my group. I eventually stepped forward and offered my hand to shake, saying hello. They howled in laughter, then became brave and told em their names, asking for mine. We giggled together and mostly they stared for fifteen min. or so. When it was time for me to leave they all wanted to shake hands. I taught them the high five & offered to take their picture. Some went to the sidelines, not wanting to be in the picture but the others hammed it up and were an eager audience as I fussed with the camera.

## #14 Jain Temple Calcutta

## Jama Masjid/ The Great Mosque Old Delhi
Islam: 11% of Indians are Muslim, 100 million people
Built between 1650 & 1656 by Emperor Shah Jahan it is the largest active Mosque in India. The 900 square meter courtyard holds 25,000 worshippers. It is 1km. from the Red Fort and walking across its courtyard one can find hollow spots where the tunnel that connects the 2 runs, amplification of sound was not yet possible so readers would be underneath reciting prayer so worshippers in the back could also hear. #14-20

#15 East Gate where the Mughal emperor and his family once entered. Faithful now use this entrance for services Fridays & Saturdays

#16-17 Courtyard, notice the squares, they are meant to each hold one praying worshipper

#18 Details of the marble work
#19 The hauz (water filled tank) for washing hands & feet before prayer

#20 Back gate entrance where shoes are removed
#21 View down the steps into the streets of Old Delhi

#22 **Lotus Temple**/ Baha'i Temple built between 1980-1986

#23- 24 **Temples of Khajuraho**

Built between 900-100 AD by the Chandela dynasty, who were a Rajput clan that claimed to be descended from the moon God. When the dynasty fell the temples were lost in the jungle overgrowth for 700 yrs, discovered by a British officer. Of the original 85, only 25 still stand

#25- 28 **Mahabalipuram** ( mamma pooram) This area, on the Bay of Bengal, was the main sea port for the Pallava kings who ruled the area from 4th-8th centuries AD. The temples and sculptures were built in that time frame. The bass relief is said to be the largest in the world and tells the story of the Ganges River creation.

Rama's ancestor, Bhagiratha, was begging the Gods to give the Ganga river to the world. The gods agreed & all of creation turned out to see this new river be born, it rushed down from the Himalayan mountains. Animals and demi-gods all watch this descent. A tank above once fed water to this waterfall.

**#29-33 Qutb Minar Complex** built in 1199 when Turkish ex-slave Qutb-ud-din Aibak swept into North India & defeated the Rajputs. He later founded the Delhi Sultanate, India's first Muslim kingdom. The complex was constructed in celebration of his triumphs in the north & marking the area the eastern frontier of the Muslim world.

Among the verses from the Qur'an on the minaret prayer tower, in Arabic it also states, " The tower was erected to cast the shadow of God over both East & West."

No longer can individuals climb the tower, in 1981 31 schoolchildren were trampled to death getting down in a power outage. The Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid(Might of Islam Mosque) in the complex was built from the remains of 21 Hindu & Jain temples destroyed by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, as stated on the inscription. Some of the Hindu statuary exists but the faces are destroyed, slide #33

**#34 -37 Colorful temples of South India/ Tamil Nadu**
**#38-39 Havan Fire Ceremony New Delhi**
**#40 Flowers, Old Delhi**, used in Hindu ritual, as offerings in the temple

## Slides of Hindu Gods

#41 Ganesha & mother Parvati
#42 & 49 Krishna
#43 & 47 Hanuman
#44 & 46 Krishna & Radha
#45 Lakshmi
#48 Ganesha
#50 Shiva, Parvati & Ganesha
#51 Shankar
#52 & 57 Durga
#53 63 Kali
#54 Female Vishnu
#55 Narasimha
#56 & 61, 64 Vishnu
#58 Shiva
#59 Saraswadi
#60 Brahmacharini
#62 Varahi

# B) Styles of Dress

#1 South India, an ascetic holy man seen among women wearing saris, Punjabi suits. A man in a long dolhti. The ashes an ascetic wears are made from burned cow dung and are said to serve as an antiseptic, insulation from the heat and cold, and mosquitoes dont bite through it.

#2 Our guide in Madras wears a sari and one can see both the traditional bangles & the red tilak on her forehead as well as some red near her hairline, the sign that she is married. The tilak marks an important psychic location in the body & marking this spot = a third eye, the one to open in meditation, a unification of the subconscious & conscious. It is also said to serve as a reminder to people to look within themselves, as well as looking out at the world.

#3 Northern India near Shimla. Men wear heavier cloth, dholtis are also longer in length

#4 Jaipur,Rajasthan Men are entering the Temple to Hanuman, the monkey God. People leave bananas and other offerings there which explains all the monkeys about. White cloth dholtis are worn and the elder man has a turban

#5 Two woman purchase flowers to offer at the temple. Notice the red along the taller ones scalp, signifying her marriage.

#6 On route to Rajasthan. Many men in turbans, colorful saris. All women have their heads covered. This region of India is somewhat more conservative and therefore women are more covered than you would see in other areas.

#7 Temple worship in South India. The small boy has a wreath of flowers to offer, note the colorful shawls and saris

#8 & 9 Young Muslim women in black , with heads covered

# C) Dance in India

#1 Kerala school girls dance several traditional Indian dances for us. Note the beautiful hand made saris they wear

#2 #3 Kathakali dancer in Kerala. Dancers are all male even for female roles & they depict events from Rama's life. Heroic actions are often portrayed, a good over evil story. Make up can take two hours to put on

#4 Kathak dancer. A dance tells one of the stories from the myths about Krishna and Radha

#5 Traditional dance performance in Varanasi. Note all the bells. The man is playing the tabla, a 2 piece drum set

#6-8 School children put on a dance/ play for us in Kerala. They are each dressed in the traditional clothing of all regions of India. The flower pedal display is a traditional decoration, each color in its place.

# D) Kerala, South India

This area was India's large and first maritime trading center. By 200 BC Egyptians, Phoenicians, Chinese, and Babylonians had close trade relationships with Kerala, named after its early Chera kingdom, when all this trading took place.

In 52 AD St. Thomas the Apostle was believed to have been in Kerala & the area has the largest Christian population in India, 20-25%. About the same time Jews came to Kerala to escape persecution in Palestine, an old synagogue, built in 1568, still exists. Kerala has therefore some of the very oldest Jewish and Christian communities.

Kerala is also unique in that in 1957 they freely elected a Communist government, the first place in the world to do so. The Communists have not been in power continuously since then. Literacy rates are 70% there, more than double the national average and dire poverty, prevalent throughout India is not so here.

Legend states the Malabar coast that surrounds Kerala was created when the 6th incarnation of Vishnu, Parasurama, who was born a Brahmin, set out to regain his status in the priestly caste. He disobeyed rules forbidding Brahmins to commit violence & wreaked havoc until the sea god, Varuna, offered him a chance to create a land where Brahmins could live in peace. The land was to have emerged from the sea as far out as Parashurama could throw the ax, the ax fell and on its one side was the Malabar coast, other side Kerala

#1, 2 In Kerala I stayed in a tiny village called Kumarakom where there was traditional Kerala housing, cottages or a houseboat

#3,4 The area is made up of numerous waterways and by boat we explored. One has to duck when going under a low bridge! Local children were there to watch

#5, 6 Locals doing laundry, washing up along the riverside

#7 Kerala boats

#8 Children play outside a Christian school

#9 A small Christian shrine built out onto the water

#10 Men bringing produce to town

#11-12 Chinese fishing nets

#13 Selling fish by the water side

# E) The Taj Mahal

#1 Humayun's Tomb, Delhi Built in mid 1500's by Haji Begum, wife of Hamayun, second Mogul emperor. Its early Mogul architecture. Its design was refined to the Taj Mahal later. Notice the building, a squat shape, lit by high arched entrances, with big bulbous dome on top, surrounded by formal gardens. As with the Taj, Hamayun's wife was also buried in red and white sandstone, black & yellow marble.On the site there is also a tomb for Humayun's hair stylist.

About the Taj This structure, more than any other, symbolizes India. Built on the Yamuna River between 1632- 1653 by Emperor Shah Jahan for his wife , Mumtaz Mahal. After 17 years of marriage she died in childbirth after 14 children in 1629. Workers were recruited from all over India as well as Asia, 20,000 people worked on the building. Experts came from all over. A man from Bordeaux France, and one from Venice. The main architect was Isa Khan from Iran.

Supposedly there was to be a second Taj, a negative mirror image of the first all in black marble. It was to be the tomb for Emperor Jahan. Before work could begin on this his son, Aurangzeb, detained his father for the rest of his life in the Agra Fort. From there he spent his last days looking across the river to his wives tomb.

Both tombs are in the Taj Mahal basement chamber, with false tombs in the main room, a common practice in Indian mausoleums.

# 2, 3 Views of the Taj Mahal

#4 Close up shot of the marble work & inlaid stones. Semi precious stones, jade, lapis, tigers eye, coral, among others are inlaid in marble. In 1764 solid silver doors at its entrance were ripped off and carted away 7 raiders have also made off with gold sheets that lined the inside vault.

#5 Laundry women at work in the Yamuna River near the Taj Mahal

#6 The massive entrance gateway to Agra Fort. It was built by Emperor Akbar in 1565 w/ additions added through his grandsons time, Shah Jahan. Earlier it was strictly a military fort but by Shah Jahan it was more like a palace.

#7 The outside walls are 20 meters high (60 ft) they go on for 2.5 km, surrounded by a moat of 10 meters wide. It is on the other bank of the Yamuna River

#8 The main palace building that houses the octagonal tower

#9 -10 Within this tower space Shah Jahan was held captive by his son. These towers were built by Jahan himself for his wife Mumtaz. Shah died here after 7 years imprisonment in 1666.

#11 The distant Taj as seen from the tower

# F) Rajasthan

Southwest of Delhi lies the exotic state of Rajasthan with its romantic geography, chivalrous history, the home of the medieval warrior Rajputs known for knightly codes of honor which required, among other things, fights to the death, and suicide by fire for the warriors women & children in the face of insurmountable odds, rather than be taken over.. This sense of nobility & pride is still evident in the textiles this area produces and the remaining maharaja family ties that are still revered with honor, but no longer have any ruling powers.

Rajputs frequently fought each other & these internal battles made it easier for the Mughals to overtake them, the Rajputs were resistant & in time the Moghals allowed them to rule fairly independently as the constant battles were tiresome and the Rajputs were well known as fierce fighters. When the Mughals declined, so too did the Rajputs.

The Rajput maharajas joined the British Raj & enjoyed the good life, while depleting their states. The remnants of those days are seen in the numerous palaces that remain, although most have seen better times.

Jaipur is the capital and where City Palace is, also called Amber Fort. Built 1729-1732 it is huge, in summer of 1997 it was still lived in by the former maharaja & most is off limits. It once held a harem of over 1000 women into the early 1900's. Over 400 films have been shot in the palace,including *North by Northwest* & Errol Flynn's version of *Kim*. Many of the weapons used by the warrior Rajputs are kept here and displayed in the weapons museum. One can see huge swords and jeweled daggers, as well as the lavishly decorated boxes placed on elephants for riding.

It is located up a steep incline and I arrived by elephant!

#1 -3 The elephants

#4 -5 The Palace and my Fulbright group in front of the palace

#6 The palace gardens

#7 View down from the palace

#8 Part of the old city near the palace, remains of fortress walls

#9 Beautiful archways within the palace

#10 Large solid silver vessel, there were 2, the Maharaja used to use to take drinking water with him to England. being a devout Hindu he felt water in England would be impure

From my journal:

" Inside the palace we went to the Kali temple. There was a service going on, each person who entered rang the bell & it rang constantly while we were there, overwhelming, crowded, hot, loud, foreign dialects could be heard everywhere, most visitors were Indians, loud ringing , strong incense, the ancientness of the place.

Kali is one of the bloodier Hindu Gods, sometimes depicted as dripping in bright red blood from the enemy she has just killed. It seemed significant that a Kali temple

exists here in Rajasthan- where the warrior history runs deep and long. Traditions are still meaningful and practiced. About 8 years ago an 18 year old well educated girl committed sati and the feeling among many was that she was pushed by overzealous villagers since it was an arranged marriage of only 8 months, most of which they had not lived together. Women here, due to both tradition, and the strong Muslim influence, are more covered up when seen in public."

## The Cobra

" He was the object of such veneration that peasants placed offerings of milk & bananas outside his hole. His entry into a hut was considered a divine blessing. Hindu scriptures were full of fables and stories about him. Temples had been constructed in his honor and all over India, at the beginning of each February, the great festival dedicated to him gathered together millions of worshippers. Despite the fact that he claimed more victims per year cholera, no devout person would ever have committed the sacrilege of raising a hand against him, for the cobra snake was one of the thirty three million gods in the Hindu pantheon." City of Joy Dominique Lapierre

#11-12 Snake charmers, notice the one near the river has a mongoose as well

#13-16 Busy streets, Jaipur

#17-18 Palace of the Winds Jaipur Built in 1799. The elaborate front facade overlooks the main square of the old city. It has pink sandstone windows that enabled the royal ladies to see the goings on in the city. Each little alcove sticks out in order for each woman to be able to catch a breeze. The women were all "kept" by the Maharaja

#19 A small side street in Jaipur, wild pigs searching for food

The trip from Delhi to Jaipur took seven hours by bus. I was able to see a great deal of rural India and the following shots came from that journey. Camels are a common site in this region, as is the occasional elephant.

#20- 31 All shots from the bus, little towns, women working in fields, carts puled by camels, heavily veiled women on route to market
# 32-33 Visit to a paper making factory, Sanganer Village near Jaipur. This was also the village where we saw hand blocked fabric being made. My jumper dress was made there. I bought it when the dye was still damp

#34-35 Visit with Atul Kooper and his wife Usha and son Aul

# G) The Cities: Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay

Delhi: India's capital and third largest city with about ten million. There are 1376 official monuments to see! Its history begins in 736 AD when Rajput clans feuded for 400 years with each other in the area. In 1192 Muslims swept through Northern India & conquered the area ( it was Muhammad Gauri & his slave general Qutb-ud-din Aibakislam was introduced and the Delhi Sultanate was founded. for 300 years there was instability in Delhi & North India. Delhi was sacked in 1398 by the infamous Timur, A Turkish warlord. Mughal emperors continually moved their capital back & forth between Delhi & Agra leaving both cities w/ impressive forts & monuments

Shah Jahan built Old Delhi and its massive great Mosque in the mid 1600's, it was to be a walled in capital city to be called Shahjahanabad. Persian plunderers came through in 1739 & Mughal power declined. Later the British stepped into power.

## Red Fort

#1-2
Within a year of moving the capital from Agra to Delhi, Sha Jahan ordered the construction of Red Fort. It is, like the Taj, on the banks of the Yamuna River. Building started on 4/16/1639, completed 9 years to the day later, costing 10 million rupees ( 9/97 there are 35 rupees to $1) so this in that time cost about $300,000. Its walls are a little over a hundred feet high, with a moat. Precious stones that once adorned the palaces have all been removed.

I found the fort, visible for quite a distance from all directions, one of the most awe inspiring sights I had ever seen, mostly due to its immense size. It was very difficult to photograph.

#3 Looking out at the streets of old Delhi

#4 Approaching the Great Mosque, notice the cow sitting comfortably!

#5 The Delhi train station, re-defining the word "crowded"

# Calcutta

Second to Bombay in population with 12 million people, it is one of the worlds largest cities geographically. It is the intellectual heartbeat of India, turning out assorted artists, poets, film makers and a soon to be saint. Calcutta's famous modern day poet is Rabindranth Tagore. It was here that the movement to create an India free from the British took seed. The city was the capital of British India. It is not an ancient city, taking root in 1686 when the British combined 3 small villages one called Kalikata, which is how Calcutta got its name

American Beat poet Allen Ginsberg lived there for a while as he felt it was the "free-est place on earth" but then summer came and he realized it was also one of the hottest, and returned to NYC! I found it a city with a true and genuine sense of soul. A branch of the River Ganges, Hooghly, runs through it and for me the city has a spiritual side that is hard to explain, different than Varanasi where the religious faithful can be overwhelming, here things more quiet and introspective.

Calcutta residents are fiercely devoted to their elegant but decaying city, Its problems are legendary, grinding poverty that is up close and personal. Thousands of families sleep on the pavement nightly. There are frequent electric shortages, more so than in other Indian cities, overcrowding, pollution , not to mention weather disasters.

From City of Joy, " The metropolis was situated at the heart of one of the worlds richest, yet at the same time, most ill-fated regions, an area of failing or devastating monsoons causing either drought or biblical floods. An area of cyclones and apocalyptic earthquakes, an area of political exoduses and religious wars like no other country." Being a large city, seen as a place of opportunity, many refugees from neighboring areas flee to it.

To illustrate the poverty, there was one bridge, the Howrah, that went across the river and it was said to be the most crowded space in Asia. Not too long ago they built a second bridge to help with the hours of traffic delays. To finance the project they charge six rupees for crossing, about seven cents American. At any given time there may be a few cars on the new bridge and still the first one is jammed with hundreds, rickshaw pullers who live in the City of Joy and work downtown. People can not afford twelve rupees round trip a day for the toll bridge, and it is empty.

#6 The 2 bridges

I was able to spend a morning on a boat floating along, seeing people along the banks, worshipping, getting water.

#7 Along the river banks

#8 Life on the streets, near our hotel, The Oberoi Grand, one of the top 10 hotels in the world

#9 A common site, road side barber shop

#10 Billboards are hand painted in India. Men at work putting up newest ad

#11- 14 Busy bustling street scenes

#15 Stand where I ate my first "street food" on a banana leaf plate

#16 My meeting with Mother Teresa

#17-18 When the street is your home

#19-20 Calcutta is the only city that still has hand pulled rickshaws, called rickshaw-wallahs. These men work long hours and have short life expectancies

# DURGA FESTIVAL

#21 -23 Old Quarter, preparing clay sculptures for festival

" Several times Durga was at the point of defeat. At one point, on the evening of the third day, she interrupted her onslaught to raise to her lips a cup filled with the liquid of the gods. then, w/ a terrible blow, she sank her trident into the monster's chest. Mortally wounded, the monster immediately tried to abandon his body. From his mouth there issued the figure of a hero, brandishing a sword. At once the triumphant goddess decapitated him.

It was then that she turned completely black & became known as Kali, as black as time which consumes everything. Then earth & heaven resounded w/ cheers of joy & songs of victory." City of Joy

Once a year at the end of monsoon time Calcutta Hindus commemorate this victory in a 4 day festival. Preparation begins months ahead of time in the old quarter occupied by the potter caste, hundreds of artisans create a collection of statues. People compete to make the most fierce, elaborate, beautiful. The clay statues are painted & dressed. Families, factories, neighborhoods each order them. On the first day of the festival, under a hundred canopies called pandals, strung along the streets the statues are paraded. On the last of the 4 days they are paraded again, ending at the river banks and floated away.

# BOMBAY/ Mumbai

The British received Bombay when it was no more than several low islands, swampy with malaria. The Portuguese gave it to them as part of a wedding dowry when Catherine of Braganza married England's Charles the II in 1661. The major island was Mumbadevi.

This one city accounts for 50% of India's import/ exports, largest stock exchange & densest industry. It has that big city look with fancy cafes, expensive shops, but it also India's poorest city. Half of the cities 15 million are poor and live in slums or on the streets.

The Dharavi slums are now the largest in Asia if not the world. The density in spots approaches one million people per square kilometer

The last segment of the ancient religion of Zoroastrians, survive in Bombay, the Parsi. They came to the area in 1670 & built the Towers of Silence that stand today. The Parsi hold earth, fire, and water sacred and do not bury their dead, but leave bodies at the top of the tower and birds devour it. The Parsi number at least a million in Bombay, and like the Amish and other groups, they do not marry outside their community.

#24 Men weaving silk
#25 -30 Street scenes in and about Dharavi

H)

# Schools and Rural Villages

It has been said that to really get a sense of India, one had to see the small villages, and gain some perspective on the women's lives there. Despite the over crowded cities, the majority of Indians live rural lives, 75% live in a village.

Of the 25% that live in cities, half are poor by Indian standards. Only 3% of Indians speak English. India has over 900 million people:

23% have cars
6% have a refrigerator

#1-6 School children in Kerala and near Bombay

#7-8 marble factory in village outside Agra, inlay work & demonstration of stone cutting

#9 Village near Khajuraho, sometimes referred to as the old town. Near the town well, a woman comes with a tray of brass items, our group member in white hat looks them over. Touring this village felt too intrusive, homes were half open to the street and I felt like I was gawking.

#10 Near the bus as we were leaving, the girl holding the baby to the left had chased me with several others when she saw that I was trying to blow up balloons to hand out to children. Within seconds I was totally surrounded, tugged at, immobilized. It was totally overwhelming. I kept thing, they are *only* balloons, but to some children in India, there are no onlys.

All the others are shot in and around a village called Ram'Nagar, near Varanasi. This was a farming village and we were warmly welcomed and wee able to walk about and not feel as if we were intruding.

#11 This is the village elder, who was close to 90 when we visited. Such macramé beds are very common throughout India.

#12 Village well & the common brass or copper pot

#13 This girl was explaining to us that she cares for the small children until her intended husband comes to the village, at which time they will be married. She has no idea when he will come, her marriage has been arranged since she was 15, she was 20 when we saw her in July 1997. She has never met her intended husband

#14 Notice the small rope around the babies stomach. These are given at the temples and are worn to protect the young children.

#15- 18 Village children

#19- 20 Bicycle rickshaws are common transport

#21-22 Village women in colorful saris work in the fields

#23 Only in India!! As I went to photograph these village women, a bunch of wild pigs came running through!